MOBILE DEVICE MANNERS PROPAGATION AND COMPLIANCE

BACKGROUND

[0001] As various types of mobile devices proliferate, a number of social issues develop. For example, a movie-goer who forgets to silence his cell phone may interrupt an entire audience with a ring. Or a locker room patron may feel justifiably ill-at-ease upon seeing other locker room patrons making use of camera phones or digital cameras. Or a corporation may wish to prevent near-by unauthorized devices from discovering its wireless networks. These and other examples illustrate some of the security and privacy concerns resulting from mobile devices, such concerns ranging from unintentional rudeness to critical security and privacy matters. Such mobile device intrusions may be summarized as socially undesirable audible or visual disturbance or unauthorized information or data capture.

SUMMARY

[0002] The following presents a simplified summary of the disclosure in order to provide a basic understanding to the reader. This summary is not an extensive overview of the disclosure and it does not identify key/critical elements of the invention or delineate the scope of the invention. Its sole purpose is to present some concepts disclosed herein in a simplified form as a prelude to the more detailed description that is presented later.

[0003] The present examples provide methods and technologies for defining and administering device manners policy ("DMP"), propagating DMP, reception and recognition of, and compliance with DMP. Such policy may be used to communicate to various mobile and other devices the "manners" with which compliance is expected or required. Similar to some of the social manners honored among people, such as with "no smoking" or "employees only" zones, "no swimming" or "no flash photography" areas, and scenarios for "please wash your hands" or "no talking out loud", devices may recognize and comply with analogous "device manners" policy.

[0004] Many of the attendant features will be more readily appreciated as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description considered in connection with the accompanying drawings.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0005] The present description will be better understood from the following detailed description read in light of the accompanying drawings, wherein:

[0006] FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing example mobile devices coupled to together via a network and to a device manners policy ("DMP") server and database.

[0007] FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing example mobile devices coupled to together via an ad-hoc network.

[0008] FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing an example device manners policy ("DMP") applied to an example mobile device.

[0009] FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing an example process for recognizing a DMP and configuring a device to comply with the DMP.

[0010] FIG. 5 is a block diagram showing an example computing environment in which the technologies and processes described above may be implemented.

[0011] Like reference numerals are used to designate like parts in the accompanying drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0012] The detailed description provided herein below in connection with the appended drawings is intended as a description of the present examples and is not intended to represent the only forms in which the present example may be constructed or utilized. The description sets forth the functions of the examples and/or the sequence of steps for constructing and operating the examples. However, the same or equivalent functions and sequences may be accomplished by different examples.

[0013] Although the present examples are described and illustrated herein as being implemented in a computing and networking environment, the environment described is provided as an example and not a limitation. As those skilled in the art will appreciate, the present examples are suitable for application in a variety of different types of computing and networking environments.

[0014] FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing example mobile devices coupled to together via a network 110 and to a device manners policy ("DMP") server 120 and database 122. Example devices may include personal data assistant ("PDA") 130, tablet personal computer ("PC") 140, digital camera 150, laptop PC 160, digital video recorder ("DVR") 170, and cell phone 180. Such devices should be operable to at least receive, recognize and/or support device manner policies. Some such devices may include computing environments such as that described in connection with FIG. 5. Many other devices may also be coupled via network 110 or other means, including a watch with an alarm, shoes with lights (such as some children's shoes), game devices, audio recorders, or any other device for which device manners recognition and compliance may be of value. Such devices may include mobile devices or other devices such as desktop PCs, servers, set top boxes, appliances, or any other type of non-mobile device that may benefit from device manners recognition and compliance, Further examples of such devices include vehicles or any other device, system, construct, composition, or the like operable to at least receive, recognize and/or support device manner policies.

[0015] Devices may be coupled to network 110 via any operable link, such as example link 190. Such links may include a network interface card ("NIC"), a serial or parallel port, a data bus, an analog interface, or the like, may be wired or wireless, may make use of infrared ("IR"), acoustics, optics, radios frequency ("RF"), or the like. Network 110 may be an ad-hoc network with mobile devices coupling transiently. Server devices, such as server 120, and other less mobile devices, may be coupled to network 110 more persistently than mobile devices. In one example, network 110 may be a wireless fidelity ("Wi-Fi") network at a coffee shop, city library, courtroom, or airport lounge. Mobile and other devices may typically link to such a Wi-Fi network via wireless adapters. Such devices may also be operable to link to other types of networks. In another example, cell phones may link to a cellular network via appropriate RF adapters and protocols. Such cell phones may also be operable to link to other types of networks, such as Wi-Fi networks or the like. [0016] In one example, DMP server 120 and database 122

may be a DMP appliance-a special-purpose device or system or the like primarily intended to provide DMP server and/or database functionality. Such a DMP appliance may be